

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising a processor and an information notification apparatus, and is embodied in one of a portable generic computer, a Personal Digital Assistant and a cellular phone, said information notification apparatus comprising:

a rule holding unit operable to hold (a) an information notification rule which is generated based on information concerning a preference of a specific user, the rule defining that predetermined information should be notified to the specific user in the case where the specific user satisfies a predetermined condition and (b) an information notification rule which is generated based on information concerning a preference of another user;

an information notification unit operable to notify the specific user of predetermined information which needs to be notified to the other user, in the case where a condition which is defined by the information notification rule concerning the other user is satisfied by the specific user; and

a behavior determination unit operable to determine whether or not the specific user who received the notified information has behaved in a manner indicated in the notified information, based on one of an input received from the specific user and data related to the notified information, such that, when the specific user who received the notified information does not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information, a notification occurs that includes a message positively asserting that the specific user who received the notified information did not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information.

2. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said rule holding unit is further operable to hold one of a plurality of information notification rules in association with a plurality of groups, at least one of said plurality of information notification rules being associated with each of said plurality of groups, wherein each group is made up of a plurality of users,

wherein said information notification apparatus further comprises

a group determination unit operable to manage information concerning each of the groups and operable to determine a group to which the specific user belongs, and

wherein said information notification unit is operable to notify the specific user of the predetermined information in the case where a condition which is defined by one of the information notification rules is satisfied by the specific user, the rule being held in association with each of the determined groups.

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said information notification unit is operable to notify the predetermined information to only members of groups to which each user belongs, the information being based on the information notification rule of each user.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the information concerning each user's preference includes at least information indicating each user's current position and preference, and

wherein said rule holding unit includes:

a rule generation unit operable to generate each of the information notification rules based on inputted information which is necessary for generating each of the information notification rules based on information concerning one of the plurality of users' preferences, the necessary information being received through one of a dialogic input from the one of the plurality of users and a communication network, and

wherein said rule holding unit is further operable to hold the information notification rules generated by the plurality of users, in association with one or more of the groups to which each user belongs.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said information notification unit is further operable to restrict a number of people to which information is notified to a predetermined number on a group-by-group basis, in the case where a plurality of users substantially simultaneously satisfy a same condition regarding

one of the information notification rules .

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An information notification method comprising:

holding (a) an information notification rule which is generated based on information concerning a preference of a specific user, the rule defining that predetermined information should be notified to the specific user in the case where the specific user satisfies a predetermined condition and (b) an information notification rule which is generated based on information concerning a preference of another user;

notifying the specific user of the predetermined information which the specific user should notify to the other user in the case where a condition which is defined by the information notification rule concerning the other user is satisfied by the specific user; and

determining whether or not the specific user who received the notified information has behaved in a manner indicated in the notified information, based on one of an input received from the specific user and data related to the notified information, such that, when the specific user who received the notified information does not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information, a notification occurs that includes a message positively asserting that the specific user who received the notified information did not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium for causing a computer to execute:

holding (a) an information notification rule which is generated based on information concerning a preference of a specific user, the rule defining that predetermined information should be notified to the specific user in the case where the specific user satisfies a predetermined condition and (b) an information notification rule which is generated based on information concerning a preference of another user;

notifying the specific user of the predetermined information which the specific user

should notify to the other user in the case where a condition which is defined by the information notification rule concerning the other user is satisfied by the specific user; and

determining whether or not the specific user who received the notified information has behaved in a manner indicated in the notified information, based on one of an input received from the specific user and data related to the notified information, such that, when the specific user who received the notified information does not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information, a notification occurs that includes a message positively asserting that the specific user who received the notified information did not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information.

9. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information notification unit is further operable to notify the information to the specific user again in the case where said behavior determination unit has judged that the specific user who received the notified information did not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information.

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said information notification unit is operable to notify the information to another user in the group to which the specific user belongs in the case where said behavior determination unit has judged that the specific user who received the notified information did not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information notification unit is operable to notify the information to the other user who defined the information notification rule in the case where said behavior determination unit has judged that the specific user who received the notified information did not behave in the manner indicated in the notified information.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein said information notification unit is further operable to notify the information to only a user at one time.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data related to the notified information comprises financial data.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said behavior determination unit is operable to determine whether or not the specific user who received the notified information has behaved in a manner indicated in the notified information based on the input received from the specific user.